

1996-97

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 122

MONDAY, 27 OCTOBER 1997

1 The House met, at 12.30 p.m., pursuant to adjournment. The Speaker (the Honourable Bob Halverson) took the Chair, and read Prayers.

2 AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION—REPORT—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER

The Speaker presented the following paper:

Australian Parliamentary Delegation to the 98th Inter-Parliamentary Conference, Cairo, and bilateral visit to Kuwait, September 1997—Report—
and made a statement in connection with the report.

Mr Griffin, Mr Sinclair, Mr Quick and Mr Slipper also made statements in connection with the report.

Mr J. N. Andrew (Chief Government Whip), by leave, moved—That the House take note of the paper.

Debate adjourned (Mr Sinclair), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

3 AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION—REPORT—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER

Mrs Sullivan (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Foreign Affairs) presented the following paper:

Australian Parliamentary Delegation to Thailand and Laos and the 18th ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Organisation (AIPO) General Assembly, September 1997—
Report.

Mrs Sullivan, Mr Adams and Mr Hicks made statements in connection with the report.

Mrs Sullivan moved—That the House take note of the paper.

Debate adjourned (Mr Adams), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

4 OLDER MOTOR VEHICLES

The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Mr McClelland—That this House:

- (1) acknowledges the increasing environmental and safety problems posed by old worn out motor vehicles;
- (2) recognises that the removal of older motor vehicles from our roads would reduce pollution such as lead and other pollutants by increasing the proportion of vehicles using unleaded fuel and fitted with catalysts;
- (3) recognises that older vehicles are involved in proportionally more road accidents and that the removal of older vehicles from our roads would have substantial community benefits and health costs savings; and
- (4) recommends a reduction in wholesale sales tax on motor vehicles which would:
 - (a) add between 150 000 to 200 000 new vehicles to the market per annum;
 - (b) give a substantial boost to vehicle and component manufacturing with a substantial impact on employment in those industries;
 - (c) give a substantial boost to employment in vehicle distribution retailing and wholesaling;
 - (d) increase State revenues through stamp duty and registration increases; and
 - (e) make better quality motor vehicles more affordable to average Australians due to the “trickle down” effect as new vehicles enter the top of the market—

Debate resumed.

Debate adjourned, and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

5 MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Members' statements were made.

6 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice being asked—

Paper

Mr W. L. Smith (Minister for Family Services) presented the following paper:

Aged care reforms—Ministerial statement, 27 October 1997.

Questions without notice continued.

7 SUSPENSION OF STANDING AND SESSIONAL ORDERS MOVED

Mr Lee moved—That so much of the standing and sessional orders be suspended as would prevent the Member for Dobell moving forthwith—That this House calls on the Minister for Family Services to debate forthwith the

ministerial statement which he tabled today which indicates the latest changes to the Government's unfair nursing home arrangements and calls on the Government to restore immediately a sense of certainty and security for thousands of elderly Australians who have been massively disadvantaged by the changes originally announced by:

- (1) ensuring that no person will need to sell their home to obtain a nursing home bed; and
- (2) restoring the full \$500 million which the Government has taken out of the aged care sector.

Closure of Member

Mr Reith (Leader of the House) moved—That the Member be not further heard.

Question—put.

The House divided (the Speaker, Mr Halverson, in the Chair)—

AYES, 87

Mr Andren	Mrs Draper	Mr Lieberman	Mr Scott
Mr J. N. Andrew	Mrs Elson	Mr Lloyd	Mr Sharp
Mr K. J. Andrews	Mr Entsch	Mr McArthur*	Mr Sinclair
Mr Anthony	Mr R. D. C. Evans	Mr McDougall	Mr Slipper*
Mrs Bailey	Mr Fahey	Mr McGauran	Mr A. C. Smith
Mr R. C. Baldwin	Mr Forrest	Mr McLachlan	Mr W. L. Smith
Mr Barresi	Mrs Gallus	Mr Marek	Dr Southcott
Mr Bartlett	Ms Gambaro	Mr Miles	Mrs Stone
Mrs Bishop	Mrs Gash	Mr Moore	Mrs Sullivan
Mr Bradford	Mr Georgiou	Mrs Moylan	Mr Taylor
Mr Broadbent	Mrs E. J. Grace	Mr Mutch	Mr A. P. Thomson
Mr Brough	Mr Hardgrave	Mr Nairn	Mr Truss
Mr Cadman	Mr Hawker	Mr Nehl	Mr Tuckey
Mr E. H. Cameron	Mr Hicks*	Dr Nelson	Mr M. A. J. Vaile
Mr R. A. Cameron	Mr Hockey	Mr Neville	Mrs D. S. Vale
Mr Campbell	Ms Jeanes	Mr Prosser	Mr Wakelin
Mr Causley	Mrs Johnston	Mr Pyne	Mrs West
Mr Charles	Mr Jull	Mr Randall	Mr Williams
Mr Cobb	Mr Katter	Mr Reid	Dr Wooldridge
Mr Costello	Mrs D. M. Kelly	Mr Reith	Ms Worth
Mr Dondas	Miss J. M. Kelly	Mr Ronaldson	Mr Zammit
Mr Downer	Dr Kemp	Mr Ruddock	

NOES, 45

Mr Adams	Mr L. D. T. Ferguson	Mr Lee	Mr Quick
Mr Albanese	Mr M. J. Ferguson	Mr McClelland	Mr Sawford*
Mr P. J. Baldwin	Mr Fitzgibbon	Ms Macklin	Mr Sercombe*
Mr Beddall	Mr E. L. Grace*	Mr McLeay	Mr S. F. Smith
Mr Bevis	Mr Griffin	Mr Martin	Mr Tanner
Mr Brereton	Mr Hatton	Mr Melham	Dr Theophanous
Mr Brown	Mr Holding	Mr A. A. Morris	Mr K. J. Thomson
Mrs Crosio	Mr Hollis	Mr P. F. Morris	Mr Willis
Mr Dargavel	Mr Jenkins	Mr Mossfield	Mr Wilton
Ms Ellis	Mr Kerr	Mr O'Connor	
Mr G. J. Evans	Mr Latham	Mr O'Keefe	
Mr M. J. Evans	Dr Lawrence	Mr Price	

* Tellers

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Ms Macklin (seconder) addressing the House—

Closure of Member

Mr Reith moved—That the Member be not further heard.

Question—put.

The House divided (the Speaker, Mr Halverson, in the Chair)—

AYES, 86

Mr Andren	Mrs Draper	Mr Lieberman	Mr Scott
Mr J. N. Andrew	Mrs Elson	Mr Lloyd	Mr Sharp
Mr K. J. Andrews	Mr Entsch	Mr McArthur*	Mr Sinclair
Mr Anthony	Mr R. D. C. Evans	Mr McDougall	Mr Slipper*
Mrs Bailey	Mr Fahey	Mr McGauran	Mr A. C. Smith
Mr R. C. Baldwin	Mr Forrest	Mr McLachlan	Dr Southcott
Mr Barresi	Mrs Gallus	Mr Marek	Mrs Stone
Mr Bartlett	Ms Gambaro	Mr Miles	Mrs Sullivan
Mrs Bishop	Mrs Gash	Mr Moore	Mr Taylor
Mr Bradford	Mr Georgiou	Mrs Moylan	Mr A. P. Thomson
Mr Broadbent	Mrs E. J. Grace	Mr Mutch	Mr Truss
Mr Brough	Mr Hardgrave	Mr Nairn	Mr Tuckey
Mr Cadman	Mr Hawker	Mr Nehl	Mr M. A. J. Vaile
Mr E. H. Cameron	Mr Hicks*	Dr Nelson	Mrs D. S. Vale
Mr R. A. Cameron	Mr Hockey	Mr Neville	Mr Wakelin
Mr Campbell	Ms Jeanes	Mr Prosser	Mrs West
Mr Causley	Mrs Johnston	Mr Pyne	Mr Williams
Mr Charles	Mr Jull	Mr Randall	Dr Wooldridge
Mr Cobb	Mr Katter	Mr Reid	Ms Worth
Mr Costello	Mrs D. M. Kelly	Mr Reith	Mr Zammit
Mr Dondas	Miss J. M. Kelly	Mr Ronaldson	
Mr Downer	Dr Kemp	Mr Ruddock	

NOES, 45

Mr Adams	Mr L. D. T. Ferguson	Mr Lee	Mr Quick
Mr Albanese	Mr M. J. Ferguson	Mr McClelland	Mr Sawford*
Mr P. J. Baldwin	Mr Fitzgibbon	Ms Macklin	Mr Sercombe*
Mr Beddall	Mr E. L. Grace*	Mr McLeay	Mr S. F. Smith
Mr Bevis	Mr Griffin	Mr Martin	Mr Tanner
Mr Brereton	Mr Hatton	Mr Melham	Dr Theophanous
Mr Brown	Mr Holding	Mr A. A. Morris	Mr K. J. Thomson
Mrs Crosio	Mr Hollis	Mr P. F. Morris	Mr Willis
Mr Dargavel	Mr Jenkins	Mr Mossfield	Mr Wilton
Ms Ellis	Mr Kerr	Mr O'Connor	
Mr G. J. Evans	Mr Latham	Mr O'Keefe	
Mr M. J. Evans	Dr Lawrence	Mr Price	

* Tellers

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Question—put.

The House divided (the Speaker, Mr Halverson, in the Chair)—

AYES, 45

Mr Adams	Mr L. D. T. Ferguson	Mr Lee	Mr Quick
Mr Albanese	Mr M. J. Ferguson	Mr McClelland	Mr Sawford*
Mr P. J. Baldwin	Mr Fitzgibbon	Ms Macklin	Mr Sercombe*
Mr Beddall	Mr E. L. Grace*	Mr McLeay	Mr S. F. Smith
Mr Bevis	Mr Griffin	Mr Martin	Mr Tanner
Mr Brereton	Mr Hatton	Mr Melham	Dr Theophanous
Mr Brown	Mr Holding	Mr A. A. Morris	Mr K. J. Thomson
Mrs Crosio	Mr Hollis	Mr P. F. Morris	Mr Willis
Mr Dargavel	Mr Jenkins	Mr Mossfield	Mr Wilton
Ms Ellis	Mr Kerr	Mr O'Connor	
Mr G. J. Evans	Mr Latham	Mr O'Keefe	
Mr M. J. Evans	Dr Lawrence	Mr Price	

NOES, 87

Mr Abbott	Mr Downer	Dr Kemp	Mr Ruddock
Mr Andren	Mrs Draper	Mr Lieberman	Mr Scott
Mr J. N. Andrew	Mr Elson	Mr Lloyd	Mr Sharp
Mr K. J. Andrews	Mr Entsch	Mr McArthur*	Mr Sinclair
Mr Anthony	Mr R. D. C. Evans	Mr McDougall	Mr Slipper*
Mrs Bailey	Mr Fahey	Mr McGauran	Mr A. C. Smith
Mr R. C. Baldwin	Mr Forrest	Mr McLachlan	Dr Southcott
Mr Barresi	Mrs Gallus	Mr Marek	Mrs Stone
Mr Bartlett	Ms Gambaro	Mr Miles	Mrs Sullivan
Mrs Bishop	Mrs Gash	Mr Moore	Mr Taylor
Mr Bradford	Mr Georgiou	Mrs Moylan	Mr A. P. Thomson
Mr Broadbent	Mrs E. J. Grace	Mr Mutch	Mr Truss
Mr Brough	Mr Hardgrave	Mr Nairn	Mr Tuckey
Mr Cadman	Mr Hawker	Mr Nehl	Mr M. A. J. Vaile
Mr E. H. Cameron	Mr Hicks*	Dr Nelson	Mrs D. S. Vale
Mr R. A. Cameron	Mr Hockey	Mr Neville	Mr Wakelin
Mr Campbell	Ms Jeanes	Mr Prosser	Mrs West
Mr Causley	Mrs Johnston	Mr Pyne	Mr Williams
Mr Charles	Mr Jull	Mr Randall	Dr Wooldridge
Mr Cobb	Mr Katter	Mr Reid	Ms Worth
Mr Costello	Mrs D. M. Kelly	Mr Reith	Mr Zammit
Mr Dondas	Miss J. M. Kelly	Mr Ronaldson	

* Tellers

And so it was negatived.

8 PETITIONS

The Clerk announced that the following Members had each lodged petitions for presentation, viz.:

Mr J. N. Andrew, Mr Bradford, Mr Cobb, Mr Dondas, Mr M. J. Ferguson, Mr Hardgrave, Mr McGauran, Mr Nehl, Mr Prosser, Mr Tuckey and Mr M. A. J. Vaile, from 22, 67, 77, 24, 90, 26, 70, 8, 8, 16 and 36 pensioners, superannuants and retirees, respectively, praying that funding be provided to the Australian Pensioners' and Superannuants' Federation.

Mr McClelland, from 39 residents of Sydney, in similar terms.

Ms Gambaro and Mrs Sullivan, from 16 and 12 petitioners, respectively, praying that action be taken to remove the exclusion of members of the Royal Australian Navy, who served in the Malaya campaign, from repatriation benefits under the Veterans' Entitlements Act.

Mr Albanese, from 563 petitioners, praying that the Marrickville, NSW, Medicare office remain open.

Mr Beazley, from 1811 electors of the Division of Brand, praying that nursing home beds be made available at Collie Hospital, WA.

Mr M. J. Evans, from 349 electors of the Division of Bonython, praying that the Salisbury, SA, Medicare office remain open.

Miss J. M. Kelly, from 56 residents of western Sydney, praying that concerns over the extra air, water and noise pollution from the proposed airport at Badgery's Creek, NSW, be noted and addressed.

Mr Latham, from 52 residents of south west Sydney, praying that the recommendations of the Fair Trading Inquiry be implemented.

Mr Latham, from 19 petitioners, praying that a high profile anti-racism campaign be mounted.

Dr Lawrence, from 647 petitioners, praying that certain action be taken to protect high conservation value forests.

Mr McLachlan, from 98 residents of south east South Australia, praying that sufficient post operative accommodation be made available for elderly and incapacitated patients.

Mr O'Keefe, from 23 residents of Victoria, praying that the Deer Park, Vic., Medicare office remain open.

Mr Price, from 170 residents of western Sydney, praying that the Mt. Druitt, NSW, Medicare office remain open.

Mr Price, from 30 residents of western Sydney, praying that plans to build an airport at Badgery's Creek, NSW, be abandoned.

Mr M. A. J. Vaile, from 726 electors of the Division of Lyne, praying that SBS Television be extended to the mid-north coast of New South Wales.

Petitions received.

9 DEVELOPMENT APPROVAL PROCESS

Mr McDougall, by leave, for Mr Lindsay, pursuant to notice, moved—That this House:

- (1) expresses its concern that the current lengthy and uncertain process of securing necessary development approvals acts as a significant disincentive to attracting and securing new capital investment in Australia;
- (2) acknowledges that the approval process differs between States and Territories and is cumbersome and confusing for potential investors;
- (3) agrees that the time taken to negotiate and complete the approval process is well behind that achieved elsewhere in other countries and demands improvement;
- (4) supports a uniform national approval process to be agreed between the Commonwealth and the States, and to be administered by the States and Territories; and
- (5) calls for concerted action to achieve a streamlined appeal process recognising the need to seek changes to relevant legislation.

Debate ensued.

The time allotted for the debate having expired, the debate was interrupted, and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

10 GAMBLING

The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Mrs E. J. Grace—That this House recognises the adverse effects of gambling on society in general and on the small business sector in particular and takes steps to discourage State governments from expanding gambling as a means of raising revenue—

Debate resumed.

The time allotted for private Members' business having expired, the debate was interrupted, and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

11 GRIEVANCE DEBATE

Pursuant to the provisions of standing order 106, the order of the day having been read—

Question proposed—That grievances be noted.

Debate ensued.

Question—That grievances be noted—put and passed.

12 MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL—ASSENT TO BILLS

A message from His Excellency the Governor-General was announced informing the House that His Excellency, in the name of Her Majesty, had assented to the following Bills:

24 October 1997—Message No. 199—

Auditor-General 1997.

Audit (Transitional and Miscellaneous) Amendment 1997.

Commonwealth Authorities and Companies 1997.

Financial Management and Accountability 1997.

Taxation Laws Amendment (Foreign Income Measures) 1997.

Vocational Education and Training Funding Amendment 1997.

13 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—WORKPLACE RELATIONS AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 1997

A message from the Senate was reported returning the following Bill with amendments:

27 October 1997—Message No. 349—Workplace Relations and Other Legislation Amendment 1997.

Ordered—That the amendments be considered at the next sitting.

14 NATIVE TITLE AND THE ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER LAND FUND—PARLIAMENTARY JOINT COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

Mr Entsch (Chair) presented the following papers:

Native Title and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Land Fund—Parliamentary Joint Committee—10th report—Native Title Amendment Bill 1997—

Report, incorporating a dissenting report, October 1997.

Evidence received by the committee.

Ordered—That the report be printed.

Mr Entsch and Mr Melham, by leave, made statements in connection with the report.

15 SOCIAL SECURITY LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (PARENTING AND OTHER MEASURES) BILL 1997

The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the question—That the Bill be now read a second time—*And on the amendment moved thereto by Ms Macklin, viz.*—That all words after “That” be omitted with a view to substituting the following words: “whilst not declining to give the Bill a second reading, the House:

- (1) condemns the Government for its continuing assault on low income Australian families through, for example, the abolition of the dental health program, higher costs for prescriptions, higher child care costs and the introduction of accommodation bonds and income tested daily fees for aged care; and
- (2) calls on the Government to reconsider its plans to further penalise families with children with disabilities and sole parents”—

Debate resumed.

Question—That the words proposed to be omitted stand part of the question—put.

The House divided (the Deputy Speaker, Mr Mossfield, in the Chair)—

AYES, 82

Mr Abbott	Mr Entsch	Mr Lieberman	Mr Ruddock
Mr J. N. Andrew	Mr R. D. C. Evans	Mr Lloyd	Mr Scott
Mr K. J. Andrews	Mr Fahey	Mr McArthur*	Mr Sinclair
Mr Anthony	Mr Forrest	Mr McDougall	Mr Slipper*
Mrs Bailey	Mrs Gallus	Mr McGauran	Mr A. C. Smith
Mr R. C. Baldwin	Ms Gambaro	Mr McLachlan	Mr W. L. Smith
Mr Barresi	Mrs Gash	Mr Marek	Dr Southcott
Mr Bartlett	Mr Georgiou	Mr Miles	Mrs Stone
Mrs Bishop	Mrs E. J. Grace	Mrs Moylan	Mrs Sullivan
Mr Bradford	Ms Hanson	Mr Mutch	Mr Taylor
Mr Broadbent	Mr Hardgrave	Mr Nairn	Mr Truss
Mr Brough	Mr Hawker	Mr Nehl	Mr Tuckey
Mr Cadman	Mr Hicks*	Dr Nelson	Mr M. A. J. Vaile
Mr R. A. Cameron	Mr Hockey	Mr Neville	Mrs D. S. Vale
Mr Causley	Ms Jeanes	Mr Prosser	Mr Wakelin
Mr Charles	Mrs Johnston	Mr Pyne	Mrs West
Mr Cobb	Mr Jull	Mr Randall	Mr Williams
Mr Costello	Mr Katter	Mr Reid	Ms Worth
Mr Dondas	Mrs D. M. Kelly	Mr Reith	Mr Zammit
Mrs Draper	Miss J. M. Kelly	Mr Rocher	
Mrs Elson	Dr Kemp	Mr Ronaldson	

NOES, 41

Mr Adams	Mr M. J. Ferguson	Mr Lee	Mr Sawford*
Mr Albanese	Mr Fitzgibbon	Mr McClelland	Mr Sercombe*
Mr Beddall	Mr E. L. Grace*	Mr McLeay	Mr S. F. Smith
Mr Brereton	Mr Griffin	Mr McMullan	Mr Tanner
Mr Brown	Mr Hatton	Mr Martin	Dr Theophanous
Mr Crean	Mr Holding	Mr A. A. Morris	Mr K. J. Thomson
Mrs Crosio	Mr Hollis	Mr P. F. Morris	Mr Willis
Mr Dargavel	Mr Jenkins	Mr O'Connor	Mr Wilton
Ms Ellis	Mr Kerr	Mr O'Keefe	
Mr G. J. Evans	Mr Latham	Mr Price	
Mr L. D. T. Ferguson	Dr Lawrence	Mr Quick	

* Tellers

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Question—That the Bill be now read a second time—put and passed—Bill read a second time.

Message from the Governor-General

Message No. 200, dated 2 October 1997, from His Excellency the Governor-General was announced recommending an appropriation for the purposes of the Bill.

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

On the motion of Mr Ruddock (Minister representing the Minister for Social Security), the Bill was read a third time.

16 AUSTRALIAN MEAT AND LIVE-STOCK INDUSTRY BILL 1997

The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the question—That the Bill be now read a second time—

Papers

Mr Ronaldson (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Transport and Regional Development) presented replacement explanatory memoranda to the following Bills:

Buffalo Export Charge 1997;

Buffalo Slaughter Levy 1997;

Cattle (Producers) Export Charges 1997;

Live-stock (Exporters) Export Charge 1997;

Live-stock (Producers) Export Charges 1997;

National Residue Survey (Buffalo Slaughter) Levy 1997;

National Residue Survey (Cattle Export) Levy 1997; and

National Residue Survey (Sheep, Lambs and Goats Export) Levy 1997.

Debate resumed.

Mr Campbell addressing the House—

17 ADJOURNMENT

It being 10.30 p.m.—The question was proposed—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

The House continuing to sit until 11 p.m.—The Speaker adjourned the House until tomorrow at 2 p.m.

PAPER

The following paper was deemed to have been presented on 27 October 1997:

Customs Act—Instrument of approval 1997 No. 27.

ATTENDANCE

All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Anderson, Mr Beazley, Mr Howard, Mr Jones, Mr Lindsay, Mr Nugent and Mr Somlyay.

I. C. HARRIS

Clerk of the House of Representatives